

# Rapides Parish



*“Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community”*

**Healthy People 2010**

## Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Rapides	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
<b>ECONOMICS, 2000</b>				
% All persons in poverty	20.5%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	27.0%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	7.1%	7.3%	5.8%	--
<b>EDUCATION 2002-2003</b>				
School Expenditure per Student	\$8,133	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.0%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	7.6%	7.0%	--	--
<b>MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002</b>				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	11.9	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care w ithin first 3 months	85.2%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	82.8%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	10.6%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	17.9%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
<b>INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	4.0	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	429.0	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	234.3	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	3*	5.8	5.1	1.0
<b>STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)</b>				
Heart	288.2	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	240.2	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	67.7	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	34.7	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	41.0	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	65.4	37.8	43.3	--
<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003</b>				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	10.0	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	1.8	2.1	1.5	0.8
<b>HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004</b>				
	<b>Region 6</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>HP 2010</b>
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	28.2%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	27.1%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram w ithin 2 years (women 40+)	69.0%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear w ithin 3 years (women 18+)	86.5%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	67.5%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

### Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United State, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (\*\*Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EMS/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

**History<sup>1, 2</sup>**

Created on March 31, 1807, Rapides gets its name from a ledge of limestone which formerly crossed the Red River just above Alexandria, forming a rapid. In the center of Louisiana, and one of the largest parishes, St. Denis established in 1700 one of the earliest trading posts in the Louisiana Territory on the present site of Pineville. Later it became a French outpost, because the river was claimed by the Spanish as the boundary between Mexico and French Louisiana.



Today the parish is one of the seven metropolitan statistical areas in the state. The Louisiana Seminary of Learning, established in 1860, later became Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. The parish claims the first railroad west of the Mississippi River, built from Alexandria to Leconte in 1837.

More so than any other section of the state, the Crossroads has a pivotal hub which is the uncontested center of things; Alexandria/Pineville. This area, along with the surrounding towns and communities, makes up the Crossroads. While Louisiana is a land of infinite variety, nowhere is this more evident than at the Crossroads. Here you will find the hills and the bayous, the prairies and the rich Red River delta, each with its own history and traditions. At the Crossroads, visitors can enjoy recreation areas beyond compare, opportunities for water sports, fishing, hunting, camping spots, fine restaurants, hotels, motels, and multiple other

**Parish Seat<sup>3</sup>** ..... Alexandria

**Major Cities** (population over 5,000)

- Alexandria
- Pineville

**Parish Population<sup>4</sup>**

2000.....	126,337
2003 (estimate) .....	127,394
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	66.5%
African-American .....	30.4%
Some other race.....	3.1%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race) .....	1.4%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years .....	7.1%
5-14 .....	15.1%
15-17 .....	5.1%
18-19 .....	3.1%
20-24 .....	6.4%
25-64 .....	50.2%
65 & over .....	13.1%

**Geography and Statistics<sup>5</sup>**

Average elevation .....	82ft.
Land area in square miles .....	1323
Water area in square miles .....	39.4

**Climate**

Average temperatures	
Annual .....	67°
January .....	48°
July .....	82°
Annual average rainfall .....	60.4 inches

**Labor Force (2001)<sup>6</sup>**

Rapides Parish	
Civilian.....	60,119
Employed .....	57,223
Unemployed.....	2,886
Unemployment.....	4.8%
Louisiana	
Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed .....	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate .....	4.8%

**Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)**

- Louisiana College, Pineville
- Louisiana State University and A&M College, Alexandria
- Northwestern State University, Natchitoches

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information  
<<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
5. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary  
<[http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF\\_Parishes\\_2000-Present.xls](http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls)>.